

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 310539  
ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 PM-04 DODE-00 CIAE-00  
INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 TRSE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 /049 R

DRAFTED BY EA/ROC:DGBROWN/JCS:COL. QUACKENBUSH:BDS  
APPROVED BY EA/ROC:BLEVIN  
DOD/ISA - COL. RIDGE (SUBS)  
NSC - MR. GLEYSTEEEN  
S/S - MR. SEBASTIAN

-----240237Z 115277 /62

P R 232353Z DEC 76  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI PRIORITY  
CINCPAC PRIORITY  
INFO COMUSTDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 310539

JOINT STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, TW

SUBJECT: US FORCE REDUCTIONS

REFS: (A) TAIPEI 8349 (191045Z DEC 76);(B) COMUSTDC  
TAIPEI 190306Z DEC 76; (C) CINCPAC 180309Z DEC 76;  
(D) JCS 8771/020154Z DEC 76; (E) SECDEF 2829/111432Z  
DEC 75

1. SUMMARY. THIS MESSAGE PROVIDES GUIDANCE ON QUESTIONS  
POSED BY REFS A, B AND C CONCERNING THE PHASEDOWN OF  
SHU LIN KOU AIR STATION (SLKAS) AND PA RESPONSES ON US  
MILITARY STRENGTH ON TAIWAN.

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2. THE PA GUIDANCE IN REF E IS NOT TO BE USED AT THIS  
TIME. IN VIEW OF AFP ARTICLE QUOTED IN REF B MEDIA  
QUESTIONS ON THE MISSION OF SLKAS SHOULD BE ANSWERED AS  
FOLLOWS: QUOTE: SHU LIN KOU IS A US ARMED FORCES COM-  
MUNICATIONS FACILITY WHICH IS PART OF A WORLD-WIDE MILI-  
TARY COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK. UNQUOTE. QUESTIONS WHICH

GO BEYOND THIS MISSION STATEMENT SHOULD BE REFERRED TO WASHINGTON.

3. IN RESPONSE TO QUERIES ON WHETHER SLK WILL BE CLOSED (PARA 3A OF REF A), YOU SHOULD STATE: "ALTHOUGH THE STATION WILL NOT BE CLOSED AT THIS TIME, SOME UNITS WILL BE PHASED OUT." (AS INDICATED IN REF D, REDUCTIONS SHOULD BE RELATED TO BUDGETARY AND MANPOWER CONSIDERATIONS RATHER THAN TECHNOLOGICAL IMPROVEMENTS.) NO FURTHER COMMENT SHOULD BE OFFERED.

4. SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST STORY HAS NOT APPEARED IN US MEDIA AND NO PRESS QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN ASKED. IF SLK PHASEDOWN QUESTIONS OCCUR, WE WILL USE SAME GUIDANCE PROVIDED TO YOU.

5. THE RESPONSE TO QUESTION 4 PARA 7, REF D, IS REVISED AS FOLLOWS:

Q: HOW MANY US MILITARY PERSONNEL ARE ON TAIWAN?

A: SOMEWHAT LESS THAN 2,000 AT PRESENT. (WHEN NUMBER FALLS BELOW 1,600, COMUSTDC SHOULD SEEK FURTHER GUIDANCE. OUR PURPOSE IN USING THIS GENERAL FIGURE IS TO AVOID CONFUSION ARISING FROM THE USE OF MORE SPECIFIC FIGURES BY A VARIETY OF DIFFERENT SPOKESMEN RESPONDING TO DIFFERENT QUESTIONS OVER AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME.)

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INSTRUCTIONS, PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY BASE CLOSINGS, FORCE & TROOP LEVELS, COMMUNICATION LINES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 DEC 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** greeneet  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976STATE310539  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** DGBROWN/JCS:COL. QUACKENBUSH:BDS  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760471-0945  
**From:** STATE JOINT  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19761215/aaaaamyl.tel  
**Line Count:** 89  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 TAIPEI 8349  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** greeneet  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 24 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <24 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <22 SEP 2004 by greeneet>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** US FORCE REDUCTIONS  
**TAGS:** MILI, TW, SLKAS  
**To:** TAIPEI CINCPAC  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006